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Letter dated 30 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 June 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-20356 (E) 130799

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Annex

Letter dated 30 June 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 14 and 18 May and 1 June 1999 (A/53/959-S/1999/565, A/53/965-S/1999/577, A/53/991-S/1999/632, respectively) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar unfounded charges of so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 20 May 1999 (A/53/973-S/1999/598). Flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot administration is currently engaged in a policy of escalation on the island. Military build-up in South Cyprus is continuing unabated. Recent reports suggest that the Greek Cypriot administration is negotiating the purchase of 40 T-84 battle tanks (MBTs) from Ukraine (Jane's International Defence Review, June 1999). The Greek Cypriot armaments programme reportedly also includes purchase of attack helicopters, medium-range missiles and missile-attack craft. It is further reported that the Greek Cypriot administration intends to pursue the purchase of Aspide 300 systems from Italy (Jane's Defence Weekly, 2 June 1999). In this connection, the Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 29 May 1999, refers to an agreement which entails the delivery of 12 such systems to South Cyprus. A new bill has been tabled in the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives that would enable the Greek Cypriot National Guard to recruit 250 additional professional soldiers for a period of five years in order to man various weapons systems in South Cyprus (Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 14 June 1999). It was also reported that the Greek Cypriot administration tabled a separate bill which would extend the additional mandatory contribution introduced in 1998 to bolster the "defence fund" until the end of the year 2002. (Greek Cypriot daily Haravgi of 4 June 1999).

Another cause for concern has been the recent discovery of a large arms cache in South Cyprus as reported in the Greek Cypriot daily Alithia of 10 June 1999. According to press reports, large amounts of artillery guns, machine-guns, automatic rifles, assault weapons, pistols, hand-grenades, detonators and ammunition were discovered in a depot in Galata village, enough to equip three military companies. The weapons find is reported to be one of the largest ever made in South Cyprus.

I would like to emphasize, once again, that the continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the acts of provocation and hostility, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot

leadership to stop the arming frenzy and abandon its hostile policies, which are not conducive to reducing tension and promoting progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus